

# House of Representatives

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1968

The House met at 12 o'clock noon. Rabbi Maurice Lamm, Floral Park Jewish Center, Floral Park, N.Y., offered the following prayer:

Supreme and Allwise Lawgiver: Thou who hast endowed men with the noble ambition and blessed ability to lead fellow men in the path of right in the affairs of state, and hast inspired them to serve the people of these United States with honor:

Invest those legislators gathered here in august assembly with deep souls so that, by personal example, they may illustrate the finest and most worthy traditions of this great Republic to the end that they will lead not by pointing to high ideals but by standing for them.

Grant them great hearts so that through their kindness and care they may bring on a time of healing for the multitude of lives emptied of meaning, for the multitude of souls scarred with the weary search for peace and rest, for the multitude of hearts stabbed with the frustrations of our incredibly complex existence.

Bless them with powerful hands so that, with the practical sagacity which is their hallmark, they may unite and solidify a globe jigsawed with boundaries, separated by Iron and Bamboo Curtains, cut up into airspace, divided by latitude numbers, and fenced with radar screens.

Bestow upon these servants of the public Thy blessings, O Lord,

May the Lord grant strength unto His people.

May He bless His people with peace. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read and approved.

## RAPID EROSION OF OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE EFFORT

(Mr. MAHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I shall ask the President, the Vice President, and the Speaker of the House to undertake to coordinate a course of action for the purpose of halting the rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort. The present situation is outrageous and intolerable.

There has been talk of an intelligence gap. There is an intelligence gap. The gap is in the intelligence of those who are daily revealing the secrets of the intelligence operations of the U.S. Government. In recent weeks there has been a great excess of talk about the procedures of our intelligence apparatus.

Critics have made public statements on matters which should never be discussed in public. The administration has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests.

Along with many other Americans I am tired of these demonstrations of bad judgment. Every day some high ranking intelligence officer is quoted in the newspapers on one subject or another. These are men who, from the standpoint of the general public, should neither be seen nor heard. A passion for anonymity is an integral part of their jobs. Members of both the legislative and executive branches have publicly discussed matters which should only be discussed behind closed doors. Headlines are not so precious as to warrant jeopardizing our national security.

The deterioration of secrecy in regard to our intelligence-gathering techniques began in 1960 when a U-2 plane was shot down over Russia. Neither the executive branch nor the legislative branch is blameless in revealing secrets. Both Democrats and Republicans must share the blame. The question, however, is not so much who is to blame for the past, but where do we go from here?

To be successful, intelligence activities must be secret. To let the enemy know just how many of his secrets we know and just which ones we do not know, gives him a priceless advantage. Today's headline may cost the lives of the human sources of information. The enemy can find our intelligence sources much more easily when he knows what we have found out. This knowledge helps to pinpoint the location of intelligence activities, and once knowing the location, the discovery of the means is much easier and as a result intelligence sources dry up.

Our immaturity and indiscretion in these constant disclosures is making us the laughingstock of the world. Officials in Moscow, Peking, and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain. Responsibility on our part is urgently required. Let us be silent with respect to these sensitive matters.

Mr. John McCone, as Director of CIA, is charged with protection of intelligence sources. Public Law 253, 80th Congress, 1st session, states:

And provided further, That the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

I call on him to fully carry out the difficult and important duties of his office in this respect. A governmentwide coordination of effort is required.

The American people are interested in our intelligence activities. They are interested in all phases of the workings of their Government and their curiosities are aroused by the aura of mystery and adventure which surrounds the intelligence business. But we are not playing games. Our national survival to a great extent depends upon our knowledge of our enemies' activities. The price we pay for the luxury of public disclosure of intelligence activities is the further erosion of our capabilities in this field. It is difficult enough to obtain information from closed Communist societies. The American people, the press, and the officials of the executive and legislative branches of the Government must stop making a most difficult task more difficult.

There is room for plenty of discussion and criticism of our Government without revealing sensitive intelligence information.

## COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking and Currency have until midnight Saturday to file a report on H.R. 3872, the Export-Import Bank, along with minority views.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. McMILLAN], I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the District of Columbia have until midnight Saturday, March 9, to file certain reports.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

## SPECIAL ORDER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND IDEALS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

(Mr. RYAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have just received permission for a special order to address the House for 2 hours on Wednesday, March 27. The purpose of this special order is to afford an opportunity to all Members of the House to pay tribute to the life and